

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /156 W

----- 110745

R 112120Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3677

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 505

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BH GT

SUBJECT: PREMIER'S STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

REF: GUATEMALA 4860 (NOTAL)

1. DURING HIS ANNUAL "STATE OF THE NATION" SPEECH AT BELMOPAN ON SEPTEMBER 6 PREMIER GEORGE PRICE STATED THAT THE FOREIGN POLICY OF BELIZE RESTS ON THREE PRINCIPALS:

A. INDEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE WHEN SUITABLE INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES CAN BE OBTAINED INSURING THAT BELIZE WILL REMAIN INDEPENDENT.

B. THE CULTIVATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE "THIRD WORLD" WHICH MIGHT CHAMPION BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. PRICE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE JAMAICA'S ROLE IN DEFENDING BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE.

C. FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL NATIONS AND PEOPLES.

2. PRICE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GOB HAS "OFFERED THE HAND OF
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FRIENDSHIP TO GUATEMALA." HOWEVER, HE WAS QUICK TO CONDITION

THIS FRIENDSHIP TO THE BASIS OF "EQUAL SOVEREIGNTY." HE DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON ANY CONTACTS OR NEGOTIATIONS THAT MIGHT BE TAKING PLACE WITH GUATEMALA NOR DID HE ANNOUNCE ANY PLANS FOR SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

3. COMMENT: AS MUCH AS INDEPENDENCE IS STILL THE FOCAL POINT OF THE GOB AND OF THE PREMIER'S POLITICAL CAREER, GEORGE PRICE APPEARS TO BE TOO MUCH OF A REALIST TO CONTEMPLATE UNILATERAL INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT EITHER A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OR IRONCLAD DEFENSE GUARANTEES. WHILE I HAVE HEARD SOME RUMORS THAT BELIZE IS GOING TO DECLARE INDEPENDENCE UNILATERALLY, I HAVE NEVER HEARD ANY RESPONSIBLE GOB OFFICIAL EVEN SPECULATE ABOUT SUCH A MOVE. THEY SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THAT INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT GUARANTEES IS IMPOSSIBLE AND THAT, WERE IT TO HAPPEN FOR SOME REASON, BELIZE COULD NOT RESIST THE INEVITABLE GUATEMALAN INVASION WHICH WOULD FOLLOW. DRISCOLL

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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